

July 17, 2000

TO: Federal-State Management Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk

SUBJECT: Meeting Outcomes – July 11, 2000

The following is a summary of outcomes from the CALFED Federal-State Management Group meeting held on Tuesday, July 11, 2000.

### 1. EIS/EIR Update

- Steve Ritchie reported the Final EIS/EIR and associated documents are all now at the printers.
- Rick Breitenbach, CALFED Environmental Compliance Director, explained the Federal process required to release the EIS/EIR to the public:
  - Reclamation will prepare paperwork transmitting the Notice of Availability (NOA), to the Federal Register after it has received a letter from each Federal lead agency indicating they are agreeable to sending the NOA to the Federal Register.
  - The copies of the Final EIS/EIR and Notice of Availability (NOA) will be transmitted by Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Office to Reclamation Headquarters – Washington, D.C. for receipt by July 14.
  - Copies of the Final EIS/EIR and NOA will then be transmitted by Reclamation to the Federal Register and other Federal agencies.
  - Items are published in the Federal Register three working days after they are received.
  - The day the NOA is published in the Federal Register by EPA, the Final EIS/EIR will be released to the public.
  - On each Friday, EPA publishes a list in the Federal Register of all EISs filed the previous 7 days. The 30-day wait period begins when this list is published. The goal is to have the list published by July 21<sup>st</sup>, but no later than the 28<sup>th</sup>, so that the ROD can be released sometime after August 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 2. FY 2000-2001 State Budget: CALFED funding and positions

- DWR – Kathy Kelly said they are working through the State Budget trying to identify all positions which could be CALFED related. Patrick Wright would try to speak with Steve Macaulay that afternoon.

**Outcome:** The item would be heard at next week's meeting.

- **DFG** – Perry Herrgesell relayed the 2000-2001 State Budget includes a Budget Change Proposal for 35 CALFED support positions distributed throughout two Department Divisions, two Branches and one Region: 22 are new positions, 8 existing and converting 5 limited-term positions to permanent. The 22 new positions include 1 for CALFED MSCS and NCCP, 1 EWA manager; 6 to assist in planning, integrating and implementing CALFED science program, 7 Water Project Planning, evaluation and restoration activities; 1 to support Suisun Marsh planning, 1 CALFED permit coordination; 3 North Delta Ecosystem restoration support; 7 support for South Delta Ecosystem Restoration; 1 statewide coordinator for invasive exotic species; 5 technical and engineering assistance for Prop 204 and CALFED screen projects; and 2 legal counsel and secretary. DFG has another BCP for salmon studies, a CALFED-related position.
- **SWRCB** – Jerry Johns said they requested 10 positions and got them. In addition there were 5 for water rights, 4 people to do real-time modeling on the San Joaquin River, 3 water quality. The legislature also approved 33 positions for TMDL and toxicity studies.

3. **Environmental Water Account** – Steve Ritchie said the outstanding problem now is that there is no CALFED EWA Program Manager. He highlighted the following key issues:

- **Asset Acquisition** – He said there should be one person from each agency to discuss how to use the assets
- **Fishery agency actions**
- **Ongoing modeling**
- **Scientific review**

Leo Winternitz had distributed two documents: "EWA Issues" and "EWA SWP Operational Issues". They contained a collection of major DWR concerns with EWA issues.

**Outcome:** Management Group members will transmit their individual comments to Leo.

Patrick Wright asked if there was anything available to describe the benefits of EWA.

**Outcome:** Mike Fris, USFWS, will get together with Jim White, DFG, to develop a one-pager that would explain the benefits of EWA in laymen's terms.

Ron Ott reported the technical team completed the modeling for the Framework on Friday and they were very encouraged regarding the long term results.

4. **"Partnerships for Restoration: Safe Harbors/Assurances to Implement the CALFED Bay-Delta Program"**

At the request of David Guy of the Northern California Water Association, Mary Scoonover transmitted this document. After only a cursory review, Wayne White said some of the proposals contained in the document were impossible under current regulations. Alf Brandt said it appears they want USFWS to delegate much of its authority to the county supervisors. Patrick Wright said there is high-level focus on this issue. Luana Kiger said the issues raised need to be addressed in the ROD.

*Outcome:* Information only.

5. **Other Business**

Salinity Standards - During the discussion on the SWRCB budget earlier in the meeting, Patrick Wright asked if the Delta salinity standards need to be reviewed.

*Outcome:* Kathy Kelly will be ready at the next the Management Group meeting to begin discussion on the assessment of the current situation and a suite of action of what can be done.

Public Forum - Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission, inquired about the status of BDAC. Alf Brandt, ClubFED coordinator, explained that since BDAC has fulfilled its original FACA charter, a new charter will need to be written. He suggested another body similar to BDAC might be created for the short term.

There will be no Policy Group meeting until at least September.